

Remarks

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of the present application in view of the following remarks and amendments.

Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 5, 14, 17, 25-31, and 33-40 to address various objections and rejections as discussed below. In addition, Applicants have canceled claims 12, 13, and 24. Therefore, claims 1-11, 14-23, and 25-40 remain pending in the present application.

The drawings stand objected to under 37 C.F.R. 1.83(a) for not showing the electrical contacts recited in claim 12, and the specification stands objected to for not providing antecedent basis for the electrical contacts recited in claim 12. Applicants have canceled claim 12 to obviate each of these objections.

Claim 14 stands objected to for not ending with a period. Applicants have amended claim 14 to overcome this objection.

Claims 1-24, 27, 32, and 34-40 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for various reasons stated in the present Office Action. Applicants have amended claims 1, 3, 17, 27-31, and 33-40 to overcome these objections.

Claim 24 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 6,894,711 (Yamakawa '711). Applicants have canceled claim 24 to obviate this rejection.

Independent claims 1 and 25 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent 5,934,167 (Yamamoto '167). Independent claims 1, 25, and 26 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent

Application Publication 2002/0117578 (Denen '578). Applicants have amended independent claims 1, 25, and 26 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections based on Yamamoto '167 and/or Denen '578, and Applicants have amended dependent claims 27, 31, 33, and 34 to conform the dependent claims to the amended limitations of the independent claims from which they depend.

As amended, independent claim 1 recites an apparatus adapted to dispense a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The apparatus comprises identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, an identifier configured to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll from the identification, and a processor configured to receive data relating to the absorbent characteristics of the sheet material on the roll. Independent claim 25 recites a dispenser for dispensing sheet material from a supply roll including identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll. The dispenser comprises an identifier for identifying the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll from the identification. Independent claim 26 recites a method of dispensing a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The method comprises providing a roll of sheet material which includes identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, identifying the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll, and processing data relating to the absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll to generate an output command.

Applicants respectfully assert that Yamamoto '167 does not disclose or teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1 and 25. Yamamoto '167 discloses a photographic material feeder apparatus that includes multiple paper magazines having

width sensors that detect “multiple width pattern pins 20 mounted on the respective paper magazine” (See Yamamoto ‘167, column 7, lines 18-19). However, Yamamoto ‘167 does not disclose or teach any structure to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material as required by independent claims 1 and 25. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1 and 25 based on Yamamoto ‘167.

Applicants respectfully assert that Denen ‘578 does not disclose or teach each and every limitation of independent claims 1, 25, and 26. Denen ‘578 discloses a sheet material dispenser with perforation sensor and method that includes a perforation sensor 22 configured to sense perforations in the sheet material (See Denen ‘578, ¶ 0069). However, Denen ‘578 does not disclose or teach any structure or method to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material as required by independent claims 1, 25, and 26. Therefore, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejection of claims 1, 25, and 26 based on Denen ‘578.

Applicants respectfully assert that with the withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 102(b) rejections of independent claims 1, 25, and 26 based on Yamamoto ‘167 and/or Denen ‘578, claims 1-11, 14-23, and 25-39 are in condition for allowance.

Claim 40 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over either Yamamoto ‘167 in view of U.S. Patent 6,363,057 (Ardalan ‘057) or Denen ‘578 in view of Ardalan ‘057. Applicants have amended claim 40 to overcome the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejections.

As amended, claim 40 recites an apparatus for dispensing a web of sheet material from a continuous roll. The apparatus comprises a support for rotatably

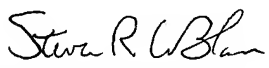
supporting a roll of sheet material which includes identification relating to absorbent characteristics of sheet material on the roll.

Applicants respectfully assert that the combinations of either Yamamoto '167 and Ardalan '057 or Denen '578 and Ardalan '057 do not disclose or teach each and every limitation of amended claim 40. As previously discussed with respect to independent claims 1 and 25, neither Yamamoto '167 nor Denen '578 disclose or teach any structure to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material as required by claim 40. Ardalan '057 discloses remote access to electronic meters using a TCP/IP protocol suite. However, Ardalan '057 does not disclose or teach any structure to identify the absorbent characteristics of sheet material as required by claim 40. Therefore, Applicants respectfully assert that Ardalan '057 fails to cure the deficiencies of Yamamoto '167 and Denen '578. As a result, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of the 35 U.S.C. 103(a) rejection of claim 40 based on the combinations of either Yamamoto '167 and Ardalan '057 or Denen '578 and Ardalan '057.

For at least the reasons discussed above, Applicants respectfully submit that the present application is in complete condition for allowance, and favorable action, therefore, is respectfully requested. Should any issues remain after consideration of this amendment, then Examiner Haugland is invited and encouraged to telephone the undersigned at his convenience.

Respectfully submitted,

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